

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A protective breathing hood comprising:

a hood made of a stretchable fire resistant material and which is also impermeable to gases and biologic material, said hood sized and shaped for placing over a head of a user in an airtight manner with an opening of the hood sealingly engaging a neck portion of the user;

at least a visor portion of the hood is transparent; and

a pair of respiratory units disposed offset with respect to the nose location;

each respiratory unit comprising a housing formed with an inhalation flow path accommodating activated charcoal particles, and an exhalation flow path fitted with a one way exhaling valve, and wherein in a donned position of the breathing hood a chamber is formed at a mouth/nose location thereof .

2. (Currently amended) A protective breathing hood comprising:

a hood made of a stretchable fire resistant material and which is also impermeable to gases and biologic material, said hood sized and shaped for placing over a head of a user in an airtight manner with an opening of the hood sealingly engaging a neck portion of the user;

at least a visor portion of the hood is transparent; and

a pair of respiratory units disposed offset with respect to the nose location;

each respiratory unit comprising a housing formed with an inhalation flow path accommodating activated charcoal particles, and an exhalation flow path fitted with a one way exhaling valve. A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the housing comprises comprising an array of receptacles accommodating the charcoal particles; where each receptacle has having an inlet opening and an outlet opening and where at least one of the inlet and outlet opening of each receptacle has a cross-section smaller than a cross-section of the receptacle, and wherein in a donned position of the breathing hood a chamber is formed at a mouth/nose location thereof.

3. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the housing comprises an array of receptacles defined by partitions extending between a proximal wall corresponding with an inside of the hood, and a distant wall corresponding with an outside of the hood; said receptacles accommodating the charcoal particles; the walls comprising openings corresponding with each receptacle and wherein the openings have a cross-section smaller than a cross-section of the receptacle.
4. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 3, wherein the partitions are integral with one of the proximal wall and the distant wall.
5. (Previously presented) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 2, wherein the openings are fitted with a grid.

6. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the activated charcoal particles are loose material packed within suitable receptacles.
7. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the activated charcoal particles are loose material embedded within a bedding material received within housing.
8. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 7 wherein the activated charcoal particles are impregnated in a charcoal cloth.
9. (Currently amended) A protective breathing hood according to Claim ~~1~~6, wherein the receptacles are disposed in the form of a honeycomb.
10. (Currently amended) A protective breathing hood according to Claim ~~1~~6, wherein the receptacles have a hexagonal cross-section.
11. (Currently amended) A protective breathing hood according to Claim ~~1~~6, wherein the receptacles have a circular cross-section.
12. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the visor portion is integrally formed with the hood.

13. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the hood is entirely transparent.

14. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the hood is provided with one or more deforming members for deforming the hood so as to form the chamber at a mouth/nose location of the hood.

15. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 14, wherein the deforming member is made of a rigid though pliable material.

16. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 15, wherein the deforming member is articulated to both respiratory units and is foldable about an integral hinge formed at a middle portion thereof.

17. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 16, wherein the deforming member comprises two arms, each articulated to a respective respiratory unit and being normally biased into a spaced apart position.

18. (Currently amended) A protective breathing hood according to Claim ~~13~~14, wherein the one or more deforming members are reinforced ribs integrally formed with the hood.

19. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 18, wherein the hood is integrally molded the reinforced ribs.

20. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the breathing unit is sealingly fitted within an opening formed in the hood and fixed to the hood by a snap-type engagement.

21. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein a sealing neck portion of the hood is axially plaited.

22. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the air exhalation flow path and the inhalation flow path are coaxially disposed within a respiratory unit.

23. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 6, wherein the loose activated charcoal particles is granulated material.

24. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 23, wherein the size of the loose granulated activated charcoal particles is about 0.5 to 1 mm.

25. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein the respiratory units further comprise a biologic material barrier disposed in the inhalation flow path.

26. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, foldable into a pocket-sized package.
27. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the hood has a distinctive color.
28. (Original) A protective hood according to Claim 1, wherein the hood is made of silicone rubber.
29. (Original) A protective breathing hood according to Claim 28, wherein the entire hood is transparent.
30. (Original) A protective hood according to Claim 1, wherein the exhaling valve is a mushroom-type valve fitted into the housing.
31. (Original) A protective hood according to Claim 1, being a disposable one.
32. (New) A protective breathing hood comprising according to Claim 1, wherein the exhalation flow path is in fluid communication with the mouth/nose of the user at least when the exhalation valve is open.

33. (New) A protective breathing hood comprising:

a hood made of a stretchable fire resistant material and which is also impermeable to gases and biologic material, said hood sized and shaped for placing over a head of a user in an airtight manner with an opening of the hood sealingly engaging a neck portion of the user;

at least a visor portion of the hood is transparent; and

a pair of respiratory units disposed offset with respect to the nose location;

each respiratory unit comprising a housing formed with an inhalation flow path accommodating activated charcoal particles, and an exhalation flow path fitted with a one way exhaling valve, and wherein in a donned position of the breathing hood a chamber is formed at a mouth/nose location thereof such that there is substantially continuous fluid communication at least between the chamber and the mouth/nose of a user.

34. (New) A protective breathing hood comprising:

a hood made of a stretchable fire resistant material and which is also impermeable to gases and biologic material, said hood sized and shaped for placing over a head of a user in an airtight manner with an opening of the hood sealingly engaging a neck portion of the user;

at least a visor portion of the hood is transparent; and

a pair of respiratory units disposed offset with respect to the nose location;

each respiratory unit comprising a housing formed with an inhalation flow path accommodating activated charcoal particles, and an exhalation flow path fitted with a one way exhaling valve, and wherein in a donned position of the breathing hood, the hood forms a chamber at a

mouth/nose location thereof, wherein said chamber is substantially free of any means adapted for sealingly engaging the chamber to a portion of the face of the user, at least in the vicinity of the mouth/nose location.

35. (New) A protective breathing hood comprising:

a hood made of a stretchable fire resistant material and which is also impermeable to gases and biologic material, said hood sized and shaped for placing over a head of a user in an airtight manner with an opening of the hood sealingly engaging a neck portion of the user;

at least a visor portion of the hood is transparent; and

a pair of respiratory units disposed offset with respect to the nose location;

each respiratory unit comprising a housing formed with an inhalation flow path accommodating activated charcoal particles, and an exhalation flow path fitted with a one way exhaling valve, and wherein in a donned position of the breathing hood, the hood forms a chamber at a mouth/nose location thereof, wherein said chamber constitutes a breathing interface with a nose/mouth of a user.